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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/919,807	08/02/2001	Akihiko Nagata	Q65684	4297

7590 06/02/2004

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Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER
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MENDOZA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/919,807

Applicant(s)

NAGATA ET AL.

Examiner

Robert J Mendoza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02/26/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1-3, 17, 19 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Roskowski et al (USPN 6,102,406).**

Regarding claims 1-3, 17 and 23, Roskowski, in FIG. 1, col. 2:30-44, col. 3:55-67 and col. 6:35-55, discloses a game mastery support apparatus which supports mastery of an executable multi-step game, the game mastery support apparatus comprising a distribution device that distributes mastery information, which advises a player how to master a game to a terminal apparatus having a game execution function for executing the executable multi-step game independent of the mastery information, wherein the distribution device distributes the mastery information according to mastery status information, which is obtained from the terminal apparatus and indicates a stage among said multiple stages of the executable multi-step game to which a player has proceeded. Roskowski, in FIG. 1, col. 7:36-67, col. 8:1-34, col. 10:59-67 and col. 11:1-67, discloses the mastery status information from the terminal apparatus includes flag information indicating a stage of the game to which the player has proceeded. Roskowski, in FIG. 1, col. 2:30-44, col. 3:55-67, col. 5:1-67 and col. 6:35-55, discloses a terminal apparatus, which receives information distributed by a game mastery support apparatus for supporting mastery of a game, and which has a game execution function, the terminal

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apparatus comprising a display screen, and a processing section that receives, from the game mastery support apparatus, distributed mastery information for mastering a game, and which displays the mastery information on the display screen.

Regarding claim 19, the Roskowski, in FIG. 1, col. 2:30-44, col. 3:55-67, col. 5:1-67 and col. 6:35-55, discloses two separate terminal apparatuses that exhibit different functions. The first terminal apparatus sends, to the game mastery support apparatus, mastery status information representing a game stage to be mastered. The second terminal apparatus receives information distributed by the game mastery support apparatus, and which is specified as destination of the mastery information. The second terminal apparatus, illustrating identical structure as the first portable device, includes a display screen and a processing section that receives, from the mastery support apparatus, the mastery information for mastering the game, and displaying the mastery information on the display screen.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 4-12, 18, 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roskowski in view of Lee (USPN 6,475,089)**

The disclosure of Roskowski has been discussed above is, therefore, incorporated herein. Roskowski lacks in disclosing a ranking information distribution device that includes an accumulator that accumulates information from players, a determining device that determines a

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rank of a player with reference to the accumulated information and a distributor that distributes ranking information pertaining to the determined rank. Lee, in an analogous game system, teaches a modem processing circuit comprising memory for keeping personal information of the players, system patches, and results of previous games (col. 7:24-26). Furthermore, Lee teaches, in col. 1:39-41 & col. 10:56-59, an arithmetic processing unit that determines a prescribed period of time, and implements processing for determining the ranking of the players within such period of time, laying more emphasis on the latest data. After the game results are transmitted back to the host computer the host computer transmits information on grades, ranking, etc. to each player. It would have been to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Lee into the disclosed invention of Roskowski. One would be motivated to combine the teachings of Lee with the disclosure of Roskowski in order to heighten the security of the game system by maintaining detailed records of all players currently engaged in the system, rewarding players on their performances by providing a list that illustrates a player's skill and ability levels relative to other players, and increase the excitement of the game.

**Claims 13, 17, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roskowski et al. in view of Sporgis (6,320,495).**

The disclosure of Roskowski has been discussed above is, therefore, incorporated herein. Roskowski lacks in disclosing the terminal apparatus is a portable device. Sporgis teaches, in FIG.1 and col. 3:1-2, each player is equipped with a mobile wireless communication device in communication with a game master computer system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Sporgis into the disclosed invention of Roskowski. One would be motivated to combine the

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teachings of Sporgis with the disclosure of Roskowski in order to facilitate game players in accessing the computer game from various remote locations and increase the overall excitement of the game.

**Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roskowski et al. in view of Lee in further view of Sporgis (6,320,495).**

The disclosures of Roskowski and Lee have been discussed above is, therefore, incorporated herein. Roskowski and Lee lack in disclosing the terminal apparatus is a portable device. Sporgis teaches, in FIG.1 and col. 3:1-2, each player is equipped with a mobile wireless communication device in communication with a game master computer system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Sporgis into the disclosed inventions of Roskowski and Lee. One would be motivated to combine the teachings of Sporgis with the disclosures of Roskowski and Lee in order to facilitate game players in accessing the computer game from various remote locations and increase the overall excitement of the game.

#### **Response to Arguments**

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Mendoza whose telephone number is (703) 305-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

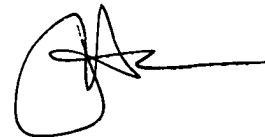
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's primary examiner, John Hotaling, can be reached at (703) 305-0780. The USPTO official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

RM

RM

May 26, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

JESSICA HARRISON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER